



**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY OF SCOTTSDALE  
GRANITE REEF SENIOR CENTER - ROOM 11  
1700 N. GRANITE REEF ROAD  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved July 16, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Brian Munson, Chair  
Michele Cohen, Vice Chair  
Jimmy Leung, Board Member  
James McCay, Board Member  
Bill Gill, Board Member

**ABSENT:** Ron Hand, Board Member  
James Mulloy, Board Member

**STAFF:** Larry Person, Environmental Coordinator  
Chuck Skidmore, Energy Management Engineer  
Anthony Floyd, Green Building Manager  
Joey Miller, OEI Intern  
James Livingston, Solid Waste Department

**ALSO:** Nancy Basinger  
Bob Freund

1). **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Munson called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m. A formal roll call confirmed members present as stated above, noting the presence of a quorum.

2). **Public Comment**

Ms. Basinger expressed an interest in participating in the EnviroKids Fest.

Mr. Freund commended EQAB's contributions to Scottsdale.

3). **Approval of Minutes**

- May 21, 2008 Regular Meeting

**VICE CHAIR COHEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2008 REGULAR MEETING. BOARD MEMBER MCCAY SECONDED.**

Vice Chair Cohen clarified that the 1,465 buildings mentioned on page 4, item 6, were LEED certified. In the same paragraph, she requested insertion of "Professor Harvey Bryan of ASU made a presentation at the last GBAC meeting."

Vice Chair Cohen questioned the cost of LEED certification cited on page 4. As Board Member Mulloy was not present to verify the figure, approval of the minutes was deferred.

4). **Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water**

- Update and discussion related to options for providing citizens with proper disposal choices.

Mr. Livingston discussed the issue of pharmaceuticals in the water system. The Solid Waste Department has responded with a new web page that details the proper disposal method for medications. Many people incorrectly assume that flushing medications down the toilet is the safest way to get rid of them. Properly constructed landfills are lined to prevent groundwater contamination. The approved method is to dissolve the medication in a small amount of water, and to dispose of it in the garbage. Citizens should also take steps to prevent identity theft of their medical information.

In response to Board Member McCay, Mr. Livingston said landfills are continuously tested to ensure that the liners are non-permeable. Regional municipalities have not been finding many pharmaceuticals in the local water supplies.

Board Member McCay suggested that suitable warnings should be added to prescription drug labels. Mr. Livingston said that issue would be outside the scope of the Solid Waste Department. Chair Munson suggested that local drug stores might be encouraged to set up medication disposal programs.

Mr. Livingston said attention was drawn to the issue before it became a large problem. Public education is the best way to modify behavior.

5). **Air Quality**

- Update and overview of the City's position on motorized vehicle use at the Granite Mountain Recreation Area.

Mr. Person updated on recent developments resulting from the air quality mandates of SB 1552. The referendum that was introduced to challenge the City's ordinances on dust control was itself challenged in court, and has been thrown out.

He reported that the City of Scottsdale entered into a memorandum of understanding in 2005 to help manage the Granite Mountain Recreation Area. Since off-highway vehicle use has continuously degraded the area, Scottsdale decided to withdraw from that MOU last week. The loss of vegetation, damage to archeological sites, and proliferation of illegal trails has made restoration of the land an expensive proposition, should it eventually become part of the Preserve. The State Land Department intends to close the land it owns in Scottsdale to motorized vehicle use. There is a false rumor being spread that the GMRA is being closed to all recreational activities. Of the State's 39 OHV areas, only two are located within Non-attainment Area A.

In response to Board Member McCay, Mr. Person explained that State law allows landowners to decide whether to allow vehicles on their property. If they do, they are responsible for providing a dust-free surface for the vehicles to ride on, or risk being fined. Permitted drivers are also required to stay on dust-proof surfaces, or similarly risk a fine.

6). **Environmental Stewardship Awards**

- Overview of different environmental awards.

Mr. Person clarified the differences between the City's three environmental awards. The Environmental Office has awarded staff for excellence in environmental stewardship both at work and in their personal lives. EQAB also gives an award to honor either a citizen or a staff member in recognition for outstanding environmental achievements.

The highest award that the City can give out is described in Scottsdale's Revised Code, Division VIII, §2-303. "The Board shall also assist the Council by providing nominations for any environmental achievement awards established by the Council." Mr. Person said it is a Mayor/Council issued environmental award, based on EQAB's recommendations. It has been named the Daniel Basinger Environmental Achievement Award, and is intended to honor the worthiest of recipients.

- Discussion and possible action on creating criteria for the Daniel Basinger Award.

Chair Munson noted that the criteria for the award came up at the last meeting, but that no decision was made.

Vice Chair Cohen cautioned against setting an impossible standard for the award. Ms. Basinger felt that the award honors the memory of Daniel Basinger, but should not be measured against him. EQAB should determine its own standard of performance. She felt that it should not be handed out every year as a matter of course, but suggested that EQAB hold a review to determine whether one should be given that year.

Board Member Leung felt that the award should be given to demonstrate what environmental leadership is all about.

Mr. Person noted that the City's Bill Donaldson Award is accompanied by a short paragraph that describes who he was and why he was so important to the City. He

suggested that something similar could be done for the Daniel Basinger Award. Ms. Basinger said such a description would be helpful in defining the criteria a recipient should have.

Chair Munson felt the recipient should make a significant contribution to protect or enhance environmental quality. Leadership is one part of that contribution.

Board Member Leung asked whether the recipient should be a Scottsdale citizen, and whether their contribution only be related to Scottsdale. Ms. Basinger felt that Daniel Basinger was concerned with the bigger picture, even though he acted on the local level.

The Board discussed the scope of the award. Board Member McCay felt it should award somebody locally, as a national figure would not benefit from the recognition as much as a local leader would. Chair Munson felt that the door should not be shut on possibilities. The relevancy of those issues could be raised during the nomination of a candidate.

Mr. Person reminded that EQAB would just be nominating candidates for Council to consider, not making the final decision.

Board Member Leung suggested amending the Charter to officially recognize the award under his name. Mr. Person said Council might not have to take that formal a step.

**VICE CHAIR COHEN MOVED TO SEND A MEMO TO COUNCIL RECOMMENDING THAT SCOTTSDALE'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD BE NAMED THE DANIEL BASINGER ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD. BOARD MEMBER GILL SECONDED.**

Board Member McCay suggested amending the bylaws to include the official name of the award. Mr. Person explained that bylaw amendments require the issue to be agendized for two successive meetings.

**THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0).**

Mr. Person reviewed the award's qualifying criteria. Recipients can be an individual or a group, a Scottsdale resident or a member of the larger community; they must display leadership and service, and must contribute a significant and sustained effort to the protection or enhancement of the environment.

Ms. Basinger cautioned the Board not to make the requirements so strict that it could never be awarded.

7). **Mayor Manross' State of the City environmental priorities discussion and possible action.**

- Discussion and possible action to revise EQAB's work plan in response to statements regarding strategic environmental priorities in Mayor Manross' State of the City address

Chair Munson noted that the Mayor's address contained some compelling segments related to targeting specific areas for green revitalization. He will meet with the Mayor

on July 2 to discuss what EQAB's role might be in reaching that goal, and to determine how the Council might react to another set of green building initiatives.

Mr. Skidmore felt that EQAB should be continuously taking action, and not waiting for the perfect set of conditions to exist in order to propose ideas.

Vice Chair Cohen suggested creating a general statement about what EQAB's eventual goal is for green building. For instance, the Mayor is excited about Planned Use Development (PUD). EQAB could suggest that the PUD have a more green focus.

Board Member McCay asked what EQAB is trying to do. Mr. Skidmore felt that one of EQAB's jobs is to identify barriers within the City's existing organization that prevents staff from making necessary changes. Policies and procedures are originally designed to get things done, but sometimes they can get in the way when changes are necessary later on.

Mr. Person said the Mayor is not asking for a full plan; she wants EQAB to provide ideas for how to implement the goals stated in her address. EQAB has already addressed two of her points, but has yet to weigh in on how to target green business as part of the economic vitality effort, and how to encourage green revitalization in the areas of Scottsdale that are being redeveloped. The Mayor wants EQAB to help identify the most feasible ideas amongst all those presented.

Chair Munson said it would be more efficient to have a subcommittee review and prioritize all the recommendations. He suggested that EQAB have a retreat in July to discuss strategic planning. Board Member McCay requested that the OEI staff be present as well. Vice Chair Cohen felt it might more useful to wait for a retreat once the new board members are in place. Mr. Skidmore felt the effort cannot wait, and the existing Board has years of experience to share. The new Board can always add their own ideas later.

Mr. Person said Economic Vitality's message has been that in order for Scottsdale to attract clean technology businesses, there has to be infrastructure in the city that helps attract them. Businesses want to know whether there is an environmental management system in place within the City organization, and how it interfaces with the community. EQAB should ask how businesses could assess the opportunities in Scottsdale to link up with like-minded companies under a government infrastructure that is conducive to the clean technology industry.

Mr. Skidmore suggested that all Board Members come to the retreat with a definition of what sustainability is.

Board Member Leung felt that more focus was necessary for the retreat. EQAB has to determine how to get things done, not just talk about things. Mr. Skidmore noted that EQAB has an advantage over staff in its ability to think outside the box.

Vice Chair Cohen said EQAB's priority should be to push green building, get status updates on energy and water policies, and assist in realizing the Mayor's goals.

Board Member McCay felt there were already too many strategic plans and more action was necessary.

EQAB agreed to hold a facilitated retreat in July to assess the current situation and focus on an appropriate action plan.

- Discussion and possible action to align EQAB's standing committees' priorities in response to the Mayor's strategic environmental priorities.
- Discussion and possible action regarding proper timing of EQAB's next retreat.

8). **Standing Committee Reports**

Chairman Munson assigned Board Member McCay as the new Vice Chair of the GBAC.

- Green Building Advisory Committee (GBAC)
  - Update and discussion of recent GBAC meeting agenda items and actions.

Vice Chair Cohen said the GBAC was updated on R1-7 zones and Planned Unit Development. She noted that EQAB was not invited into the PUD discussion, even though there are potential environmental considerations.

A company called Solar City presented the concept of leasing photovoltaics to customers, thus eliminating all upfront costs. The offer is predicated on Federal incentives.

GBAC also received updates on the revision of green remodeling guidelines, Design Day, and a new green building collection at the library.

- Green Building Expo status report and discussion.

Vice Chair Cohen reported on Vic Valliere's offer to have the OEI handle the logistics of the Expo. The arrangement would be similar to the one used for the EnviroKids Fest, and rely heavily on help from volunteers. The idea was presented as an alternative to transferring the Expo to a non-profit entity. The GBAC supported the idea.

Vice Chair Cohen explained that the City realized that Scottsdale benefits greatly from the Expo and did not want to give it away. She expressed concern that the Expo effort could take away from staff's ability to do other environmental work.

- Sustainable Built Environment Strategic Goals discussion
- Water Advisory Committee (WAC)
  - Update and discussion on the Water Resources Department's assured water supply application.

Board Member Gill reported that the application would go before Council on July 1. The City has begun a detailed evaluation of acquiring Arizona American Water Company.

- Update, discussion and possible action for a recommendation to Council on downtown storm drain issues.
- Update and discussion on the water conservation rebates.

The City is looking into offering a rebate program to encourage the switch from constant regeneration water softener systems to on-demand systems.

Staff is working to draw correlations between the money spent on current rebate programs and amount of water saved. The WAC is also asking EQAB for guidance on what to consider for future rebate programs. Mr. Skidmore said infrastructure costs have to be decoupled from the usage cost. People with larger meters are paying more. He proposed a program in which the City installed restriction orifices in meters for free. Board Member McCay suggested rebate program for waterless urinals and gray water harvesting.

- Update and discussion of recent WAC meeting agenda items and actions.

Board Member Gill discussed a public stakeholders meeting on the impact of raising water development fees. When compared to other cities, Scottsdale's fees are not the highest.

- Energy Advisory Committee (EAC)
  - Update and discussion on working groups preparing background information staff implementation of the Energy Plan 2007 update.
  - Update and discussion on the case study for Granite Reef Senior Center energy performance audit.
  - Update and discussion of recent EAC meeting agenda items and actions.

Mr. Skidmore reported that the EAC has been inviting speakers to share information on various subjects. David Berry reviewed a report by Western Resource Advocates. The paper demonstrates that it would be cheaper to meet the projected growth in energy demand by using renewable energy, than to build new fossil fuel burning plants. One of their primary recommendations is to decouple the infrastructure costs to encourage individuals to invest in systems that allow them to make their own energy, and therefore reduce the investment that the utilities would have to make.

He said the EAC might recommend a discussion with the City Manager on the effects of electric rates on the economy in general. If businesses can spend less on energy, they can lower prices and invest more in production. The money would also stay in the local economy.

9). **Updates and Reminders**

- Board Member suggestions for environmental topics on future agendas.

Board Member Leung requested that a staff person from Economic Vitality be invited to discuss ways to make Scottsdale friendlier to green technologies.

- Upcoming events.
  - EQAB Meeting - July 16, 2008
  - Solar Series Lecture - June 19, 2008
  - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day - November 1, 2008

**Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A/V-Tronics, Inc.